

LAMBDA

Carolina Gay Association Newsletter

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SEC-5 Planners Seeking Site

Tennessee planners of the fifth annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men have set a mid-February deadline for deciding whether or not to hold the conference in October.

A small group of women and men have held monthly meetings in Nashville for over seven months, under the umbrella of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights. The major problem in planning the conference is finding a site.

According to a spokesperson, a gay group that is forming at Memphis State University has voiced interest in sponsoring the conference. Additional support has come from the Memphis chapter of TGCHR, which consists of approximately 50 people.

At the fourth annual conference held last April in Chapel Hill, N.C. much support was voiced for holding

SEC-5 in an ERA-ratified state. Conference participants from Tennessee, most of whom were from the Nashville area, volunteered to sponsor the conference.

Part of the difficulty in obtaining a university facility was that there are no gay student groups at Vanderbilt and Tennessee State University.

Vanderbilt University had been pursued as the most probable site, but a spokesperson said that the group had recently received "a firm no from Vanderbilt."

"The precedent of the recent U.S. District Court decision involving recognition of a gay student organization at a university in the Memphis State school system makes the formation of a gay student group possible there," a spokesperson said.

Quebec Fights Sexism In Ads

The Council on the Status of Women has engineered a \$433,000 anti-sexism campaign from funds allocated by the Quebec government. The campaign includes a series of four television commercials attacking sexist advertising.

The anti-sexism campaign has been criticized by a major advertising agency, J. Walter Thompson of Montreal, which was one of the original four agencies bidding for the account.

The Thompson agency withdrew from the contest citing a conflict of interest. "As practitioners, we felt we couldn't speak against ourselves," Raymonde Lavole, director of French creative services at JWT, said.

"Also, we disagree that advertising creates stereotypes; it simply confirms them."

The money to sponsor the campaign is coming from advertisers because of the two percent governmental tax on

broadcast commercials, according to Advertising Age.

Feedback, a subsidiary of BCP advertising of Montreal who won the account, will not use a reverse role model in its campaign. "There will be no men washing dishes," Therese Sevigny, vice-president, said.

The first of the four series of ads is currently running on all Quebec French-language television stations.

It shows small girls and boys each playing with traditionally sex-stereotyped toys, the boys with trucks, the girls with dolls. When the girls and boys exchange toys the viewers are told: "Children aren't responsible for sexual discrimination--we are."

The second ad will focus on women's perception of themselves, followed by sexism in advertising and sexism at work. The ad campaign ends in June.

Tennessee Finalizes SEC-5 Plans⁹

The Fifth Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men will be held August 1-3 in Memphis, Tennessee. Tennessee is an ERA-ratified state.

The Memphis chapter of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights voted unanimously in a Feb. 4 meeting to host the conference.

"Planning is going very well at this point," said Bill Johnson for the Conference '80 Committee.

Johnson, in a telephone interview, said that the chosen theme for the conference -- "Aware and Active" -- reflects both a positive gay self image and a gay political awareness and activism for the 1980s.

He said one objective of the conference is to involve gays from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri as well as Southeastern states which have previously participated.

Committee member Regina Russell said, "We in Memphis, being more 'western' in our communications network than 'eastern,' feel the conference can bring together the Southeast and the Southwest to create a larger and more stable network to challenge the fundamentalist 'New Right' movement that is presently sweeping the country."

The Committee is planning for about 1000 people, though hotel convention facilities for up to 2000 are available.

Plans are being made for two keynote speakers. No woman keynoter has yet been confirmed. The Committee has confirmed Leonard Matlovich as the male keynote speaker, "to speak on a political topic," according to Johnson.

A concert is being planned for Friday evening, and a dance for Saturday evening.

Russell says several workshop topics are already on the agenda. These include: "How Not to Organize--The Pitfalls of a Beginning Group in a Conservative Area"; "Fighting Back--Answers to the 'New Right'"; "Lesbian Mothers/Gay Fathers"; and "Homosexuality and the Bible."

Many workshop topics are based on the feedback sessions and evaluation sheets from previous conferences.

When asked specifically about minority involvement in the planning, Johnson said, "Since Memphis is 40% black, it would be very irresponsible not to have blacks on the Committee. Several local blacks are involved in planning, and Billy Jones of the National Coalition of Black Gays is helping us out too."

A regional planning meeting will be held in Memphis on April 5 to plan fundraising and other activities. Johnson said that the Committee is "poorly fixed for money."

(Gay Conference, cont. p. 12)

Women's Center Houses Agencies

Plans for the new Orange County Women's Center in Chapel Hill are underway.

The Center was started by a \$30,000 anonymous donation from a woman.

The only stipulation was to have the Center house the Battered Woman Coalition, Rape Crisis Center, and the Women's Health Counseling Service.

Some temporary programs will also be housed there, for example, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act job training program for disadvantaged women, headed by Jane Ryan.

The Board of Directors is taking suggestions for possible activities at the Center.

Possibilities include counseling groups for women, lesbian rap groups, a library and reading room, workshops, a childcare center, and an overnight shelter.

The Board of Directors is looking for one full-time person or two part-time workers to coordinate programs and to raise funds. For information,

contact Elaine Barney or Janet Cohn at 929-0471.

The Women's Health Counseling Service will be training new counselors in April. Interested persons should contact Elaine at 929-0471.

Volunteers are needed to help with publicity and fundraising for the Women's Center. Volunteers should call 967-9301.

The Center will hold an auction and an open house all day on May 4.

Donations of furnishings and other items will be accepted for the Center and for the auction. For more information, call Rachel at 967-9301.

"Not only is it good to see women making the decisions, but it is important that there is a consolidation of services to women," one woman said.

For more information, contact:
Orange County Women's Center
307 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



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the Front Page

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The News & Entertainment Paper for N.C.'s Gay Community

SE Gay Conference Organizes for 6th Year

Baton Rouge, LA—The Sixth Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men will be held April 10-12, 1981 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the campus of Louisiana State University.

The conference is being sponsored by the LSU Students for Gay Awareness. As a student group, this organization has limited access to private funds. Following a regional planning session held December 6 on the LSU campus, the sponsoring group encouraged interested individuals and

organizations to sponsor fundraising activities on the Conference's behalf.

Exhibit space will be available for the conference on a limited basis for those who wish to sell arts and crafts or commercial merchandise. A flat \$25.00 fee will be charged per commercial exhibit. No commission will be taken from sales. Organizations will be able to exhibit free of charge.

For more information write: Conference '81, c/o LSU SGA, P.O. Box 16031, University Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70893.

